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HE TURNED BACK AND RESCUED THE STRUGGLING PIG

GRANDPA'S STORIES ABOUT LINCOLN

BY EVELYN LEE

"GRANDPA," said Marjorie, as she climbed upon the old man's knee and nestled as "comfy" as a little chicken, "tell me about Lincoln. Was he great as Alexander?"

The face of the veteran lighted up as he slowly thought back to the time when "Honest Abe" Lincoln lived and worked. Stroking Marjorie's curls, he told her of Lincoln's greatness:

"It was a long, long time ago that Lincoln befriended a pig, just the sort of a pig that you know. Lincoln was a lawyer and dressed in his 'Sunday' clothes when he saw the pig struggling in deep mud. The young lawyer rode on but, after he had gone two miles, he turned back and rescued the struggling pig.

"His clothes were spoiled, but the pig meant more to him than the clothes. All through life, Lincoln never could see a suffering animal without trying to help it. He explained that he might have left the pig to die but, as he rode farther away

from the spot, the pain in his mind kept growing and forced him to return.

"Lincoln could not do selfish things, for his nature was good and kind and noble at all times; it was his great nature that made him President of our country.

"Marjorie, there are many other reasons why this poor boy became great. He never told lies and he was so truthful and so fair in everything that the people called him 'Honest Abe.'

"Once, when he was a boy, he borrowed a book from a Mr. Crawford. The book was a 'Life of Washington.' While Lincoln had the book, it became damaged and stained by rain-drops. Lincoln went to Mr. Crawford and said:

"'I'm real sorry, Mr. Crawford. I want to fix it up with you somehow, if you can tell me any way, for I haven't any money to pay for it.'

"'Well,' the man replied, 'being as it's you, Abe, I won't be hard on you. Just come over and shuck corn for three days and the book is yours to keep.'

"But, Marjorie, the thought I want you to remember is that this great man had courage. He never lost his heart. He never said, 'I'm afraid,' or 'I cannot,' and he never stopped saying, 'I can' and 'I will.' Some persons say much and do little. Lincoln said little and did much.

"The poor boy who struggled hard for a living, never gave up. He read books and studied. When somebody told him he might some day be President, Lincoln laughed but said:

"'I'll study and get ready, and then maybe the chance will come.'

"When Lincoln went into the Black Hawk war, he was a captain and rode on a horse; when the war was ended, he was a common soldier who trudged home on foot. He was too poor to pay his debts, and his surveying tools were sold. He failed in his first efforts to go to Congress, and he failed in his efforts to become a member of the General Land Office. Twice, when he wanted to be Senator, he failed; when he wanted to be Vice-President, too many men said, 'No.'

"But Lincoln was the man who never gave up. He tried and



ON THE TRAIN TO GETTYSBURG HE WROTE NOTES

tried again. At last, just as someone had hinted long ago, he became President. If he had lost heart and stopped trying, we never would have heard of the name of 'Honest Abe' Lincoln.

"At one time Lincoln was asked to make a speech at Gettysburg. On the train that was taking him there, he wrote notes of what he wished to say. They did not suit him. He tore them up and scribbled on an old envelope he found in his pocket.

"On the fast-flying train President Lincoln was downhearted. He feared his speech would not be good; but, when he was called upon to speak, he bravely arose and told the people his thoughts. He forgot his notes; but then and there he made the shortest and greatest speech of that time. Today, many years afterward, the people remember that famous speech.

"We call him 'Honest Abe' because he was honest; but we

ought also to call him 'Courageous Abe' because he had courage, never lost his heart and rose above his failures."

Grandpa stopped, brushed back his long white hair, and lifted up the curls that hid Marjorie's neck and shoulders. He smiled and said:

"I've used some big words in telling you about Lincoln and perhaps you do not understand all that I told. You should read about Lincoln whenever you can and try to do as he did."



BY ALICE CROWELL HOFFMAN

MOST travellers upon the trains
At night climb into shelves;
They must feel queer to know someone
Sleeps up above themselves.



And even in the winter time,
Whenever night comes 'round,
The soldiers tuck their blankets close,
And sleep upon the ground.

